

PRAYDA EDITORIAL ARTICLE VIEWS CONTROVERSY OVER SOVIET TROOPS IN CUBA

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"WHO AND WHY NEEDED THIS?"--TASS HEADLINE: ALL QUOTATION MARKS AS RECEIVED)

(TEXT) MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 11, TASS--THE NEWSPAPER "PRAYDA" CONTAINED TODAY THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ARTICLE ENTITLED "WHO AND WHY NEEDED THIS?":

"A HOSTILE CAMPAIGN IN RESPECT OF CUBA, THE LATEST OF A WHOLE SERIES, HAS BEEN STARTED IN WASHINGTON AGAIN IN RECENT DAYS. THIS TIME IT IS BEING BUILT UP AROUND ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE APPEARANCE IN CUBA OF "SOVIET COMBAT UNITS".

FANNING UP THE SITUATION AND TRYING TO GIVE A SEMBLANCE OF CREDIBILITY TO THESE CONTENTIONS, THE AMERICAN PROPAGANDA MEDIA ARE PLAYING UP ALL SORTS OF "DETAILS" THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE INVENTED. SOME SAY THAT THE SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL WAS BROUGHT TO CUBA RECENTLY, AND AT NIGHT AT THAT IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SECRECY OF ITS ARRIVAL. OTHERS SAY THAT IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CUBA, BUT THE WHOLE MATTER IS THAT NOW THIS PERSONNEL HAS BEEN GIVEN SOME NEW FUNCTIONS". ALARM-SPREADING STATEMENTS ON THIS MATTER WERE MADE ALSO BY A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS.

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IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH, OF COURSE, KNOWS WELL THE FACTS RELATED TO THIS MATTER SHOULD HAVE GIVEN THE NECESSARY EXPLANATIONS WITH THE AIM OF CUTTING SHORT THE GROWTH OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CAMPAIGN. REGRETTABLY, HOWEVER, OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOLLOWED A DIFFERENT COURSE. THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THEM ARE OF SUCH A NATURE THAT THEY ACTUALLY, SO TO SAY, ONLY ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE.

IN THIS CONNECTION THE NEED ARISES OF RECALLING THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CUBA.

FOR 17 YEARS ALREADY THERE EXISTS IN CUBA A TRAINING CENTRE AT WHICH SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL HELP CUBAN SERVICEMEN MASTER SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT IS USED BY THE CUBAN ARMY. NEITHER THE NUMBER NOR THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SAID SOVIET PERSONNEL HAVE CHANGED THROUGHOUT ALL THESE YEARS. ALL CONTENTIONS ABOUT THE ARRIVAL IN CUBA OF "ORGANISED SOVIET COMBAT UNITS" ARE TOTALLY GROUNDLESS.

CUBAN GOVERNMENT WITH THE SOLE AIM OF HELPING THE STRENGTHENING OF THAT COUNTRY'S DEFENCE CAPABILITY. CUBA IS COMPELLED TO TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE ITS DEFENCE NOT ONLY BY PAST EXPERIENCE, BUT ALSO BY THE PRESENT SITUATION AROUND IT THAT IS BY FAR FROM FAVOURABLE FOR THE REPUBLIC'S PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT, AND BY INTRIGUES OF FORCES HOSTILE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE THAT HAVE ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES ABROAD. THE SOVIET-CUBAN COOPERATION OF MANY YEARS, DICTATED BY THE AIMS OF CUBA'S DEFENCE, COMPRISES AN INALIENABLE RIGHT OF TWO SOVEREIGN STATES. ANY ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT THIS RIGHT ARE IN CRYING CONTRADICTION WITH ACCEPTED NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL INTERCOURSE AND ARE ABSOLUTELY UNFOUNDED.

IT IS ALSO ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT EITHER BY ITS SIZE OR ITS FUNCTIONS THE SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CUBA DOES NOT PRESENT AND CANNOT PRESENT ANY THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES, JUST AS TO OTHER STATES.

SUCH IS THE ACTUAL STATE OF AFFAIRS. IT OBVIOUSLY SHOWS THE UTTER GROUNDLESSNESS OF THE NOW OUTCRY RAISED IN THE UNITED STATES OVER CUBA.

THE TRUE MOTIVATIONS AND DIRECTNESS OF THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO ARE FANNING UP THIS LOUD CAMPAIGN ARE CLEARLY SEEN ALSO FROM THE BY FAR NOT CHANCE SELECTION OF THE MOVEMENT FOR LAUNCHING IT.

CLEARLY ON A SIGNAL THE AMERICAN PROPAGANDA APPARATUS BEGAN TO WORK INTENSIVELY PRECISELY AT THE TIME WHEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND OTHER HIGH-PLACED REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, COMING OUT AGAINST DIKTAT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, FOR LIQUIDATING THE REMNANTS OF COLONIALISM AND RACISM, FOR STRENGTHENING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSEMBLED IN HAVANA FOR THEIR 6TH CONFERENCE. THE PLAN WAS SIMPLE HERE--TO TRY TO UNDERMINE THE PRESTIGE OF CUBA AS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE AND AUTHORITATIVE MEMBER-STATES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

IT IS NOT BY CHANCE EITHER THAT ALL THIS OUTCRY IS BEING USED BY THOSE CIRCLES IN THE UNITED STATES THAT ARE TRYING TO PREVENT THE RATIFICATION OF THE SALT-2 TREATY AND IN ANY CASE TO COMPLICATE THE PROCESS OF ITS RATIFICATION;

SUCH IS THE PURPOSE BEHIND THIS ENTIRE CAMPAIGN THAT IS HOSTILE TO THE USSR AND CUBA. AND THOSE WHO CONNIVE AT IT AND THE MORE SO INSPIRE IT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY THEY ARE ASSUMING".